

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07551 231737Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 /104 W

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R 231638Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9540

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 7551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR PLOS VE CO

SUBJECT: GOV REPLIES TO COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL ON GULF  
OF VENEZUELA

REF CARACAS 7528; BOGOTA 6851

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
LATE JULY 22 ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE WHICH LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN FOR  
FURTHER DISCUSSION RESPECTING COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S  
PROPOSAL FOR A COLOMBIAN - VENEZUELA CLAIMED BY BOTH  
COUNTRIES. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF  
THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS. QUOTE THE VENEZUELAN GOVT  
BELIEVES THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN  
TAKING PLACE FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITH THE GOVT OF COLOMBIA  
OVER THE DELIMITATION OF OFFSHORE WATERS AND UNDERSEA AREAS, IT  
COULD BE INTERESTING TO CONSIDER THE CLOSING OF THE GULF OF  
VENEZUELA WITHIN AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.  
IN ANY CASE, THE IMPORTANT INITIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA  
DOES NOT RELATE DIRECTLY TO THE DELIMITATION OF THE INTERIOR OF  
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PAGE 02 CARACA 07551 231737Z

THE GULF ABOUT WHICH CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS

CONTINUE. UNQUOTE.

2. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN RAPHAEL COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOLLOWING THE JULY 23 CABINET MEETING. HE STATED THAT VENEZUELA WOULD BE INTERESTED, FOLLOWING THE DELIMITATION OF OFFSHORE BOUNDARIES, IN STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF "CLOSING OFF" THE GULF TO ALL BUT VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA. RAPHAEL EXPLAINED THAT BY "CLOSING OFF" HE MEANT THE EXERCISE OF EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION BY THE TWO COUNTRIES OVER THE GULF. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE GOV OF "CLOSING OFF" THE GULF OF VENEZUELA. ANY MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION WOULD HAVE OBVIOUS LOS IMPLICATIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL CAUTIOUSLY ENCOURAGES THE CONDOMINIUM CONCEPT WHILE MAKING PLAIN THAT ANY AGREEMENT TO DELIMIT THE DISPUTED AREA MUST BE CONCLUDED SEPARATELY. SHLAUDEMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, PROPOSALS (BID), WATER BOUNDARIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COM MUNIQUES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CARACA07551  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750254-1143  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750726/aaaaaxqo.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CARACAS 7528, 75 BOGOTA 6851  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOV REPLIES TO COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL ON GULF OF VENEZUELA  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, PLOS, VE, CO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006